

5 Habits that Make You More Employable

These habits will help you get hired and get promoted!



TurningScience

Career Advice for Scientists and Engineers in Industry

Here are 5 critical habits that scientists and engineers who are successful in industry learn quickly in order to survive and thrive. Master these, and you will be on your way to a rewarding career!

1. **They always make sure their work helps the company's bottom line.** Above all else, companies exist to make money. Don't get lost in work that is fun but doesn't result in real value (profit). Make sure your work will reduce costs, increase yields, or result in a new product with a clearly identified customer.
2. **They figure out what matters and what won't matter in the end.** In industry you are frequently faced with many pressures all at once. You have to learn to identify which tasks will end up making a difference and which ones will not. Otherwise you will be consumed with too much to do and little progress to show for it.
3. **They learn to be effective rather than smart.** Academia trained us to be the expert and to always be right. Industry cares about getting results. You don't have to know everything and always be right. If you don't know, find someone who does, swallow your ego, and move on!
4. **They learn to make decisions without all the data they might like to have.** Business moves forward when decisions are made and action is taken. More analysis just leads to delays and lost profit. Analysis is an important foundation, but you have to recognize when you've reached diminishing returns and it's time to move on. Make a decision, and then work to make that the right decision!
5. **They learn to persuade others to follow their ideas.** In an academic environment, data speaks for itself. Not so in industry. Business is a game, and everyone is busy playing their own position. If you see the right direction to go, don't wait for others to see it too. Convince them to follow you! That's true leadership!

Let's Turn Science into Things People Need!